



Testimony

**Bart Russell, Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Presented to the Energy Committee
Of the Connecticut General Assembly
February 3, 2011**

RE: HB-6249, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE SITING OF WIND PROJECTS UNTIL THE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-6249, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE SITING OF WIND PROJECTS UNTIL THE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS**, which would require the Connecticut Siting Council to adopt regulations for wind turbine projects and put a moratorium on any applications until such regulations are adopted.

Although we are supportive of efforts to promote the use of renewable energy, the placement of wind turbines has raised serious concerns about the impact of such turbines on noise levels, wildlife habitats, public health, quality of life and property values. Towns have not had the opportunity to fully consider these concerns and determine whether planning and zoning and land use ordinances should be adopted to ensure that the placement of turbines does not interfere with other public interests. Moreover, the Siting Council needs time to develop regulations regarding the siting of wind projects, which pose different issues and concerns than other projects under its jurisdiction.

This bill will give Connecticut's municipalities – and the state - some much-needed breathing room in which to review issues relative to wind projects to determine whether such projects are appropriate in our communities and, if so, factors which should be considered in any siting decision.

As the demand for renewable energy grows, small towns and cities are increasingly faced with efforts to erect structures in areas that don't make sense for the town or its residents because of environmental, ecological or aesthetic concerns. Many towns have spent countless hours crafting zoning and land use regulations to control building and growth in their towns to protect neighborhoods, natural resources, historic districts, etc. These issues should be considered in crafting wind turbine regulations before the Siting Council is permitted to approve any wind projects in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.